DARK HORSE COMICS
$3.50
by Eric Powell
THE GOON
#36
FREE
KISSES
FOR THE SMALL DONATION OF EVERYTHING YOU CHUMPS GOT!
GUEST STARRING
THE QUEEN OF BURLESQUE
THE DRINKIN', SMOKIN', STRIPPIN' MACHINE!
ROXI DLITE
Eric Powell
DIRECT SALES

The nameless man, the zombie priest, had come to town to build a gang from the undead. But even the undead fear…

THE GOON™

by Eric Powell

colors by Dave Stewart

editor **Scott Allie** assistant editor **Daniel Chabon** designer **Amy Arendts**

publisher **Mike Richardson**

SINCE 1999

Zombies provided by **Jethro and Earl Zombie Wranglerin' Inc.**
and **The Adopt-A-Zombie Foundation**

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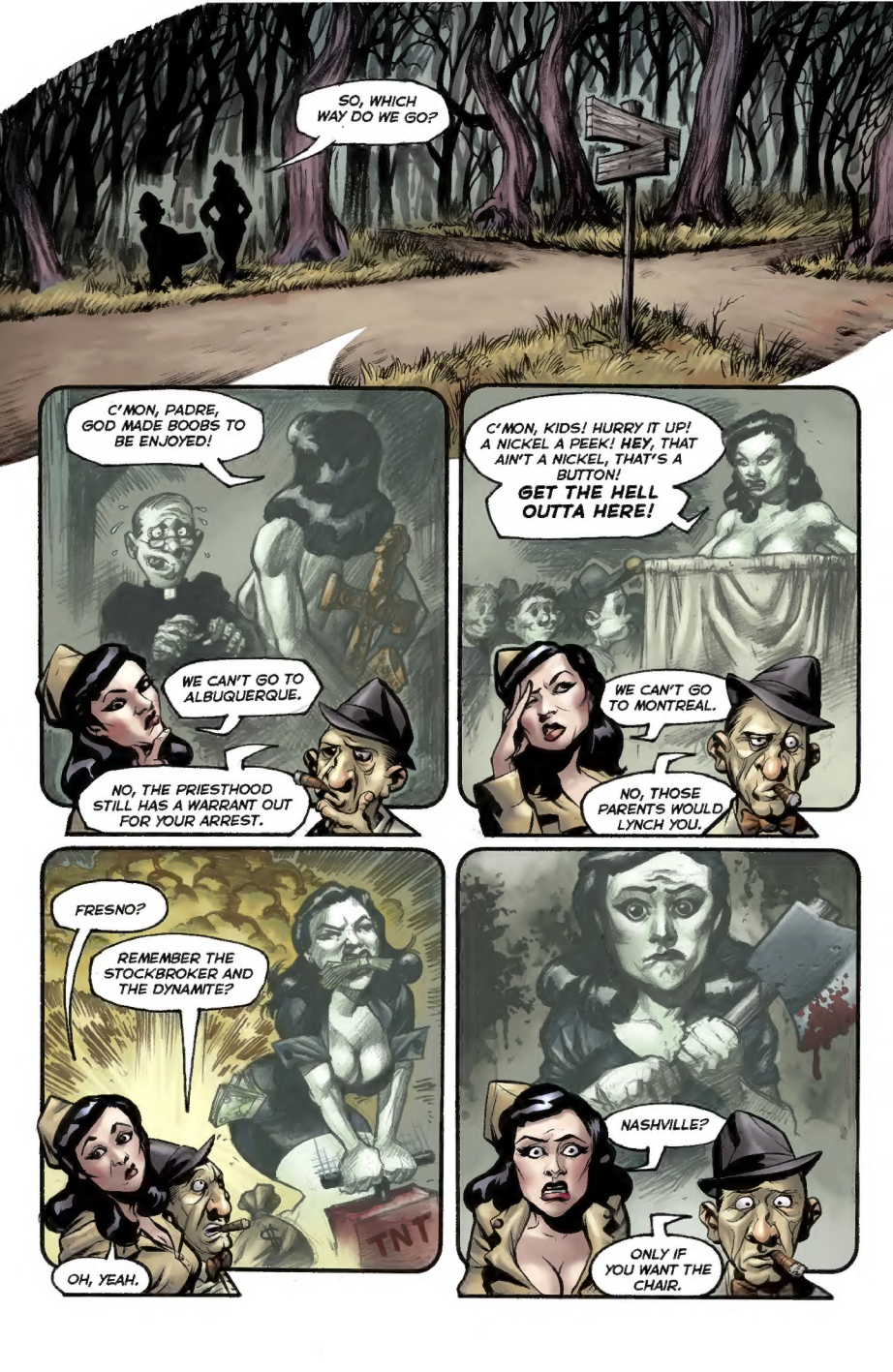
FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE! WE PRESENT THIS VAUDEVILLIAN TRIBUTE TO BURLESQUE!
ABERCROMBIE! LOOK OUT!
I NEVER FLEW A PLANE BEFORE, ROXI!

THOSE PONTANI SISTERS WERE OUT FOR BLOOD! NEVER EVER AGAIN GIVE AN ITALIAN A REASON TO WANT TO KILL YOU, ROX!!
GOOD THING THAT AIR FORCE STOOLIE WAS NEARBY!
DID YOU HAVE TO TAKE HIS PLANE AND HIS UNIFORM?
I NEVER FLY NAKED!
THAT'S A LIE.
OKAY, ONCE!
THAT'S A LIE.
OH, SHUT UP AND MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL!


SO, WHICH WAY DO WE GO?
C'MON, PADRE, GOD MADE BOOBS TO BE ENJOYED!
WE CAN'T GO TO ALBUQUERQUE.
NO, THE PRIESTHOOD STILL HAS A WARRANT OUT FOR YOUR ARREST.
C'MON, KIDS! HURRY IT UP! A NICKEL A PEEK! HEY, THAT AIN'T A NICKEL, THAT'S A BUTTON! GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE!
WE CAN'T GO TO MONTREAL.
NO, THOSE PARENTS WOULD LYNCH YOU.
FRESNO?
REMEMBER THE STOCKBROKER AND THE DYNAMITE?
TNT
OH, YEAH.
NASHVILLE?
ONLY IF YOU WANT THE CHAIR.

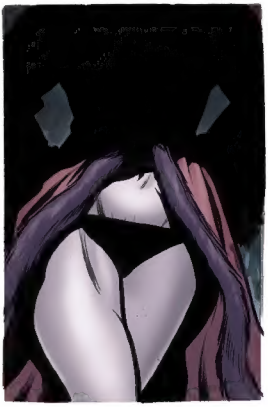
HEY, LOOK, THERE'S A TOWN OVER THERE!
CONVENIENT.
I'VE SEEN DUMPS BEFORE, BUT THIS PLACE TAKES THE CAKE!
DID WE TAKE A SHORTCUT TO THE UKRAINE?
WE NEED DOUGH BEFORE WE CAN BLOW THIS BURG, ABERCROMBIE. LET'S FIND THE NEAREST COOCHIE JOINT SO I CAN DO WHAT I DO BEST!
DRINK AND SMOKE?
THAT, TOO!
HEY, KID! WHERE'S THE LOCAL STRIPTEASE?
WELL, WE USED TA GOT A BURLESQUE HOUSE BUT THE GOON DONE CLOSED IT DOWN. LABRAZIO RUN IT AND GOON DIDN'T LIKE HIM MUCH.
THE GOON?! I SMELL TROUBLE!
I SMELL OPPORTUNITY!

CLOSED
IT AIN'T SO BAD. WE COULD HAVE THIS PLACE UP AND RUNNING IN NO TIME!
GAH! BIRD LADIES!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

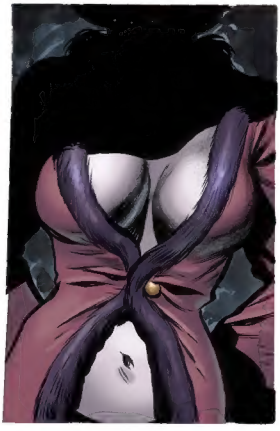
LOOKING FOR WORK! I'M ROXI DLITE! KNOWN IN BURLESQUE CIRCLES AS THE DRINKIN', SMOKIN', STRIPPIN' MACHINE!
I'M ABERCROMBIE. I APPLY THE TASSELS.
AND WHO ARE YOU?

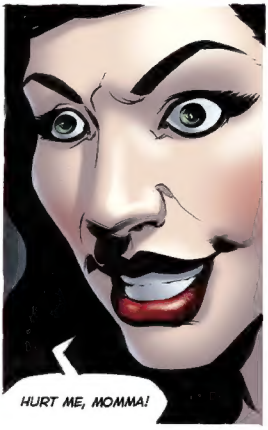
I'M MADAME ELSA. THE SHOW IS CLOSED! WE PERFORM NO MORE!
SAYS WHO? WHY DON'T YOU STEP IN THE LIGHT, AND LET'S TALK BUSINESS.

MMM.



OH, YEAH!




HURT ME, MOMMA!

GAH! WHAT THE HELL LANDED ON YOUR FACE?!?!
INSOLENT TRAMP!!
HARPIES, TAKE THEM BELOW AND DO WITH THEM WHAT YOU WILL! I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE THAT INSULT MADAME ELSA!
YOUR FACE AIN'T THAT BAD! REALLY! IT'S KINDA CUTE IN A DEFORMED-PUPPY KINDA WAY!
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE HELPING, ROXI!
THIRTY MINUTES LATER.
WHAT IS TAKING THEM SO LONG?!
TAP! TAP! TAP!
HARPIES?! HARPIES?! ARE YOU PLAYING WITH YOUR FOOD AGA--

LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE RUNNING THIS SHOW FROM NOW ON, SISTER!

THE BIG NEWS TODAY IS THE DELIVERY OF THE WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE KNICKKNACK TO LADY HORSERADISH HEIRESS OF THE HORSERADISH, HOTEL FORTUNE!
LADY HORSERADISH, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT SOON BECOMING THE OWNER OF THE WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE BAUBLE?!
OH, I JUST LOVE OWNING THINGS! BEING RICH AND OWNING THINGS IS MY LIFE'S PREOCCUPATION!
PRESS
AND HERE IT COMES, FOLKS! THE WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE KNICKKNACK!
JUST LOOK AT IT, FOLKS! THE JEWELS ALONE COULD FEED THE HUNGRY OF A SMALL NATION, AND NOW IT WILL BE COLLECTING DUST ON THE SHELF OF ONE OF THE FINEST WOMEN IN AMERICA!
OH, MY! I BELIEVE IT'S STARTED TO RAIN.

GET A LOAD OF ME! I'M THE WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE KNICKKNACK!
AHHH! I'VE BEEN URINATED ON!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?! I THOUGHT YOU BILLIONAIRE TYPES WERE ALL ABOUT THE TRICKLE DOWN!
WE'LL BE TAKIN' THAT!
PRESS
IT'S SHOCKING! BANDITS ARE MAKING OFF WITH LADY HORSERADISH'S KNICKKNACK!
HOW DARE YOU!!
HA! HA! GO SCREW, YA RICH OLD PRUNE!
CLASS WARFARE!!

I GOT YER CLASS WARFARE RIGHT HERE!
BOOM!!
NorTon's PUB
HOW THE TWO BANDITS MADE OFF WITH THE KNICK-KNACK SO EASILY STILL HAS AUTHORITIES BAFFLED.
THAT GUY KINDA LOOKS LIKE YOU, FRANKY.
SMASH!
I DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' ABOUT IT!!

SO WHAT'S THE WORD? GOT A BUYER FOR THE KNICKKNACK?
YEAH, HE'S GONNA MEET YOU AT THE BURLESQUE HOUSE TONIGHT AT TEN THIRTY.
THE BURLESQUE HOUSE?! IT'S CLOSED DOWN!
YA DIDN'T HEAR? IT'S UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.
I DON'T LIKE THIS.
BAH! YOU EXPECT THE WORST OF EVERYTHING! PERSONALLY, I'M GLAD WE GOT A PLACE I CAN FREELY OGLE BOOBS AGAIN.

CROWDS ARE LOOKING GOOD! WE SHOULD MAKE SOME DECENT BREAD OFF THESE CHUMPS!
YEAH, WORD GOT OUT ABOUT YOUR UPSIDE-DOWN HOOP TRICK! NOT EVERYBODY COULD DO THAT COVERED IN BABY OIL! THE RUBES ARE STEPPIN' ON THEIR TONGUES TO GET IN HERE!
DID YOU SEE IN THE PAPER? A COUPLE OF CROOKS MADE OFF WITH THE WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE KNICK-KNACK. WORTH MORE THAN ENOUGH TO FEED A SMALL COUNTRY.
KNICK-KNACK STOLEN!
HOLD IT A MINUTE!
KNICK-KNACK

ROXI DLITE

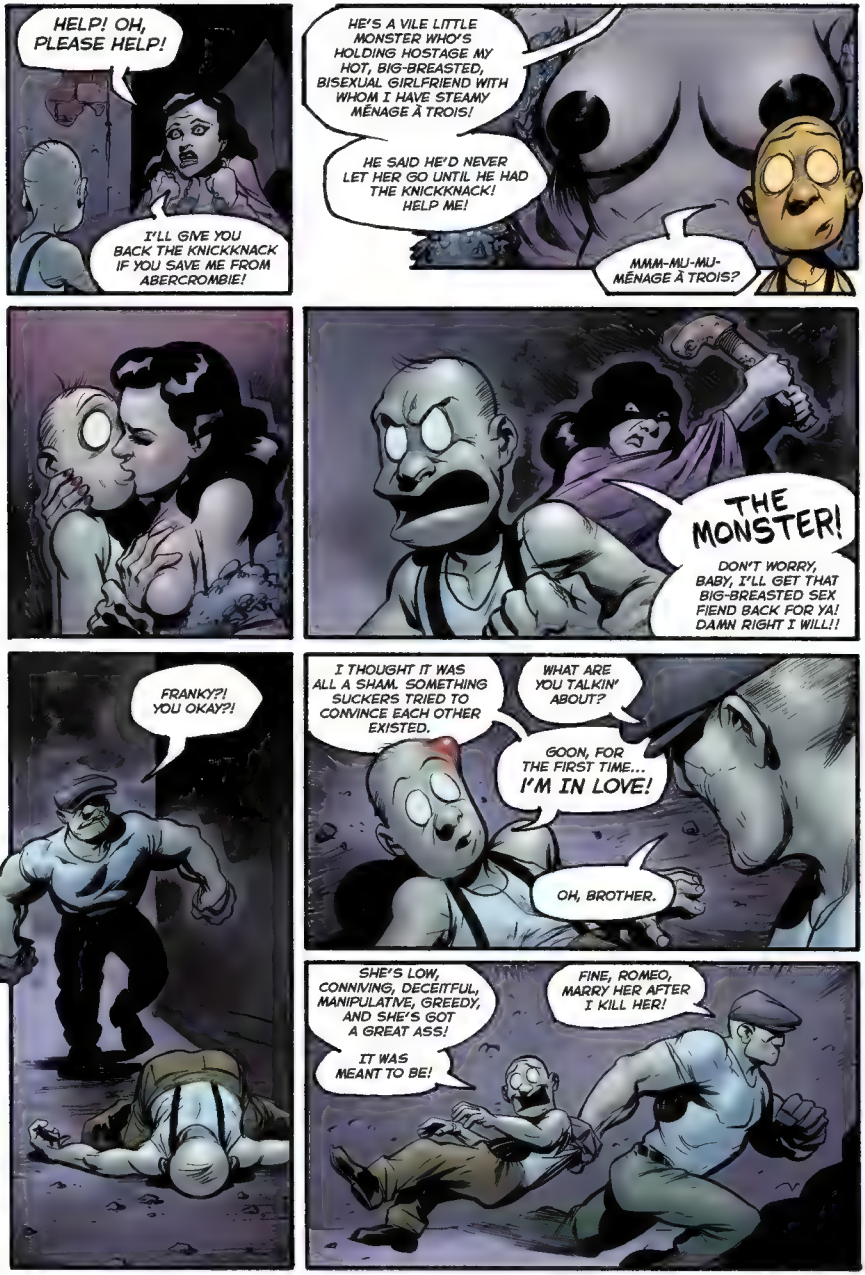
THE QUEEN OF BURLESQUE

ROXI DLITE PHOTOGRAPHY

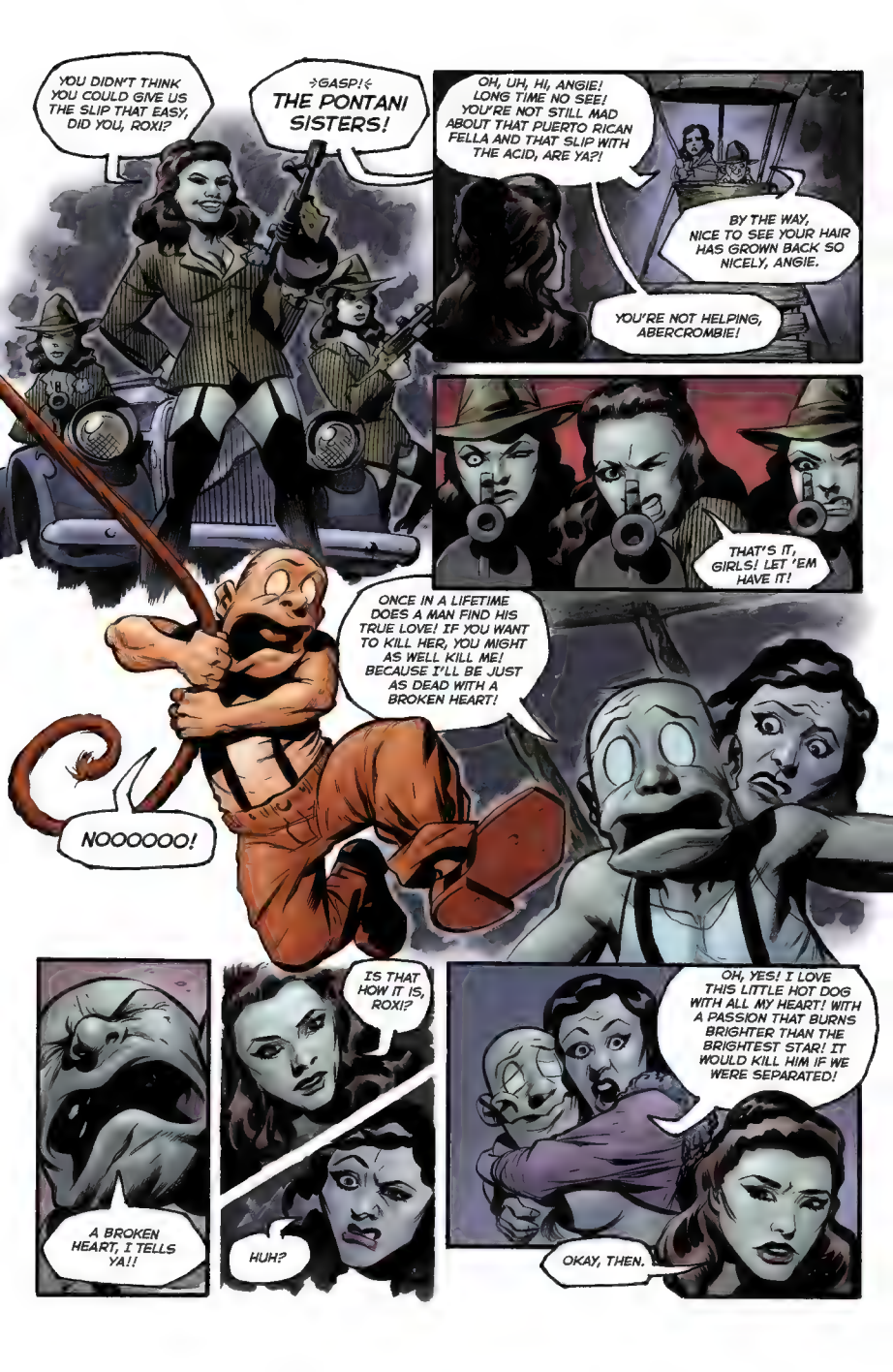
CUE MY MUSIC, ABERCROMBIE!
ARE YOU KIDDIN'?! I DON'T CARRY THAT KIND OF CASH!
THEN WHY DID YOU BRING ME DOWN HERE FOR?!
HERE SHE IS! THE DRINKIN', SMOKIN', STRIPPIN' MACHINE!
ROXI DLITE!
GOON...GOON... LOOKIT THIS DAME!
FRANKY, I'M TRYIN' TO--
IT'S A SETUP!

OH! A GUN! OH, MY!
I GOT YA!
THANKS FOR CATCHING ME, YOU BIG STRONG HUNK OF A MAN, YOU!
I'LL BE SEEING YOU AROUND!
DID YA HEAR THAT?! SHE'S GONNA SEE ME LATER!
WHERE'S THE BOX, FRANKY?!
GET THAT STRIPPER!

C'MON, ABERCROMBIE, WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!
SLOW 'EM DOWN, GIRLS!
IT'S THEM DAMN BIRD DAMES, AGAIN!
DON'T WORRY, GOON! I'M HOT ON THE HEELS OF THAT GIRL WITH THE GLORIOUS, GLORIOUS ASS!
SHHH! I'LL HANDLE THIS!


HELP! OH, PLEASE HELP!
I'LL GIVE YOU BACK THE KNICKKNACK IF YOU SAVE ME FROM ABERCROMBIE!
HE'S A VILE LITTLE MONSTER WHO'S HOLDING HOSTAGE MY HOT, BIG-BREASTED, BISEXUAL GIRLFRIEND WITH WHOM I HAVE STEAMY MÉNAGE À TROIS!
HE SAID HE'D NEVER LET HER GO UNTIL HE HAD THE KNICKKNACK! HELP ME!
MMM-MU-MU- MÉNAGE À TROIS?
THE MONSTER!
DON'T WORRY, BABY, I'LL GET THAT BIG-BREASTED SEX FIEND BACK FOR YA! DAMN RIGHT I WILL!!
FRANKY?! YOU OKAY?!
I THOUGHT IT WAS ALL A SHAM. SOMETHING SUCKERS TRIED TO CONVINCE EACH OTHER EXISTED.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?
GOON, FOR THE FIRST TIME... I'M IN LOVE!
OH, BROTHER.
SHE'S LOW, CONNIVING, DECEITFUL, MANIPULATIVE, GREEDY, AND SHE'S GOT A GREAT ASS!
IT WAS MEANT TO BE!
FINE, ROMEO, MARRY HER AFTER I KILL HER!

BALLOONS! THAT'S THE TICKET!
BALLOON RIDES
Safety NOT guaranteed. Keep wide stance in basket 'cause rats done chewed out most the bottom.
THAT'S FIVE BUCKS A TRIP, LADY.
OR YOU AND I COULD GO AROUND THE WORLD AND CALL IT EVEN! HEH! HEH! HEH!
OH, LOOK! MY VAGINA FELL OFF!
WHERE?!?!


YOU DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD GIVE US THE SLIP THAT EASY, DID YOU, ROXI?
⇢GASP!⇠ THE PONTANI SISTERS!
OH, UH, HI, ANGIE! LONG TIME NO SEE! YOU'RE NOT STILL MAD ABOUT THAT PUERTO RICAN FELLA AND THAT SLIP WITH THE ACID, ARE YA?!
BY THE WAY, NICE TO SEE YOUR HAIR HAS GROWN BACK SO NICELY, ANGIE.
YOU'RE NOT HELPING, ABERCROMBIE!
THAT'S IT, GIRLS! LET 'EM HAVE IT!
ONCE IN A LIFETIME DOES A MAN FIND HIS TRUE LOVE! IF YOU WANT TO KILL HER, YOU MIGHT AS WELL KILL ME! BECAUSE I'LL BE JUST AS DEAD WITH A BROKEN HEART!
NOOOOOO!
A BROKEN HEART, I TELLS YA!!
IS THAT HOW IT IS, ROXI?
HUH?
OH, YES! I LOVE THIS LITTLE HOT DOG WITH ALL MY HEART! WITH A PASSION THAT BURNS BRIGHTER THAN THE BRIGHTEST STAR! IT WOULD KILL HIM IF WE WERE SEPARATED!
OKAY, THEN.

SHOOT 'EM BOTH, GIRLS!!
SWIPE
SORRY, LADIES. I DON'T MIND YA PUMPIN' LEAD IN THE DAME, BUT THAT LITTLE IDIOT IS A FRIEND OF MINE.
QUICK, ABERCROMBIE! THE LINES!
HEY! GIMME THAT BACK!
WHATTA RACK!!
LET'S MAKE BABIES!
YIKES!
CENSORED
NO! THE KNICKKNACK!

SNATCH!
NICE.
BE SEEIN' YA, ROXI. IF THAT BALLOON DOESN'T FALL APART AT FIVE HUNDRED FEET FIRST.
ROXI! MY LOVE! COME BACK!
[illegible]!!! WE'VE LOST EVERYTHING NOW!
AT LEAST WE GOT AWAY FROM THE PONTANI SISTERS!
HEH! HEH! HEH! UNLESS YOU GOT FIVE DOLLARS, IT'S TIME TO BE MAKIN' FRIENDLY!
TOUCH ME AND YOU'RE DEAD!
HOWEVER... HOW ABOUT A LAP DANCE FOR THAT GOLD WATCH?
THIS LITTLE THING SHOULD BE WORTH A FEW DRINKS. HOW'S ABOUT IT, GIRLS? A NIGHT ON THE TOWN?
OHH, WE LOVE A MAN WITH MUSCLES!
ROXI! MY DEAR ROXI! I'LL WAIT FOR YOU, MY SWEET! FIGURATIVELY. NOT LITERALLY.
A MAN'S GOT NEEDS.

Remember back in the day when *Scooby-Doo* had real-life celebrity guests drawn into the cartoon? Well, this is how *The Goon* does it. Phyllis Diller never got freaky with a couple of inhuman bird women, so suck on that, Scooby!

So now that you've read the exploits of the drinkin', smokin', strippin' machine as a comic character, let me introduce you to the flesh-and-blood bombshell!

E: Roxi, since performing at the Goon Tenth Anniversary Party and the Goon Presents Burlesque show in Nashville in 2009, you've been voted one of the top five burlesque performers in the world and crowned the 2010 Queen of Burlesque at the Miss Exotic World competition in Las Vegas. Hundreds, if not thousands, claim the Goon is responsible for your meteoric rise. How grateful are you for the Goon's contribution to your career?

R: Um, yeah. The hours and hours of practicing routines, putting together costumes, and designing props had little to do with my success. Uh, I guess. I'm extremely grateful, but let's not forget the little people, like my partner D'Arcy. He has really motivated me and pushed me in the right direction. Winning Miss Exotic World really solidified what I was doing—and by "solidify" I mean a pay increase. So if you want to have me back to perform, you'll have to pay me more. Just my little way of sayin' thanks!

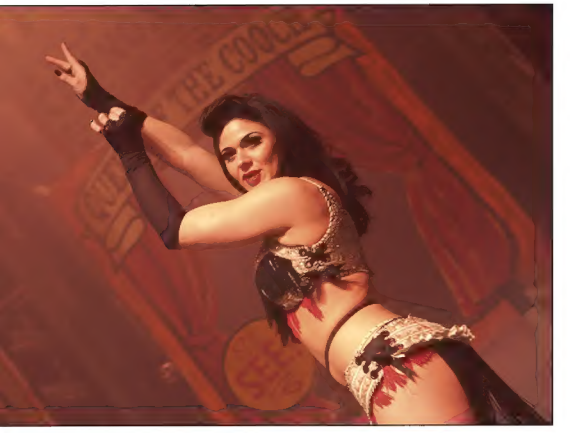
E: For those that think burlesque is just stripping in vintage lingerie, what would you tell them?

R: This is kind of like asking me, "What is burlesque," which is a question I get asked all of the time, but you get points for creatively wording it. Burlesque is not "just stripping in vintage lingerie." Most of our costumes are modern and styled with a vintage influence. Burlesque can mean different things to different performers, since there are so many different styles of burlesque. There's classic burlesque, neoburlesque, and gorelesque, which is a bloody version of neoburlesque. I tend to stick to a more classic style with a modern twist. Burlesque is an art form just like drawing comics. It's not just about getting naked while we work. Sometimes we tell a story, or sometimes it's comical. No matter what style your striptease is, a burlesque performance should always have an element of tease. That's what I think modern striptease is lacking. Aside from the performance part of burlesque there is so much more about this art form that drew me to it. There is an entire burlesque community who are all very supportive of one another. I think that is a big part of what makes burlesque so special to a lot of performers. So the next time you're working and decide to wear your mom's lingerie, just remember we all love you for who you are. I've made a lot of friends through burlesque; it's nice to know I can go to Australia, Japan, Italy, or the UK and have a friend there. Burlesque is a lifestyle and has found its way into everything I do.

E: You do lots of routines where you spin upside down mostly naked in a big metal hoop . . . Can I come to your next practice session? I'd be a good spotter.

R: If I do recall you were my spotter once. Well, not much of one because I think you were taking pictures. You're such a perv, Eric. I can show you a move or two but we have to do our stretches first. Can you touch your toes?

E: Touch my toes? Uh, give me six months? I need to train. As a fan of the classic burlesque style, I'm thrilled that the Christina Aguilera *Burlesque* movie tanked. I feel it would kill the kitschy retro coolness of this performance art if it became mainstream MTV bull••••. •••• that! . . . This is not a question but feel free to comment.



R: Actually, that's something all of us in the burlesque community feared. We were all hopeful it was going to be mind blowing, but most of us were very disappointed. Most performers have complained about the costuming being cheap, and the dance numbers being direct rip-offs from Bob Fosse films. We're starting to see more and more burlesque influences in the mainstream, and I'm not too sure if that's good or not. I hope the art form is not overexposed and becomes a fad. That really worries me. In a way the movie is a good thing because it brought burlesque into homes across America. And with more interest in burlesque there are more bookings for actual burlesque performers who know and have researched burlesque history. The more interest there is in burlesque, the more we can share what it's really all about. Knowing burlesque history is so important for new performers and for anyone generally interested in the art form. I think audiences want to be entertained and want to see something unique. I also find a lot of younger girls are wanting to perform burlesque, since it was a PG movie. I don't understand why someone made a movie about burlesque and aimed it at teens. I was very disappointed I did not see one pasty in that movie. I was hoping for a bit more raunch. Eric, I think we can agree there should have been more boobs.

E: What's the creepiest fan story you've got? Other than the pooping-in-the-shoe story. It was only one shoe. I don't know why you got so mad at me. In some cultures it's the highest form of flattery.

R: I got mad because I just had a pedicure and those were my lucky shoes, Eric. I have had some pretty interesting fans over the years. I have to admit, I have a hobby of collecting fan mail. Sometimes they're perverted or just plain crazy; those are the good ones. Most men just end up bragging about their girth. I hope to have a good collection when I'm older. People are really interesting and I'm fascinated by dark, weird, and sexually repressed individuals. Maybe that's why we're friends, Eric.

E: Being a Canadian sweetheart, how did you feel about being portrayed as a dastardly femme fatale in this comic?

R: I'm not always a sweetheart; trust me. I liked how you portrayed me in the book. It's exactly how I would see myself if I were evil—or more evil, as some would say. Actually, my partner D'Arcy really thought he was Abercrombie when we first read the book. It's kind of sad he sees himself as a doormat. Perhaps carrying my bags has gotten to his head? He's a great guy, but I wish he had another set of arms. Boy, do I ever have a lot of luggage.

E: That's funny because I actually thought about putting D'Arcy, or the Macaroni as he's known in some circles, in the comic. But your man's too pretty to play the stooge.

Like Bunny Yeager, you are a pinup model and a highly talented pinup photographer. Do you get more satisfaction in front of or behind the camera? And also, how much would you pay me to shoot some boudoir photos of me? Just so you know, anything less than five Gs is an insult. Baby don't give away his candy for free.

R: Thanks! I think I get more satisfaction from being behind the camera. It's nice not always being the center of attention. I really love being creative and capturing another person's uniqueness in an image. I work with a lot of housewives, and some are really shy at first. I love dressing them up, doing their hair and makeup, and making them feel beautiful and special. I get a lot of gratification out of that. I can do that with you, Eric. I'm serious, but I can't offer you the five Gs you're demanding. However, I can offer you one soiled lucky shoe and a lap dance. Deal?

E: Being that you're a photographer, show producer, etc., it seems like performing is just one facet of your ambition. What's next for Roxi Dlite?

R: I'm not too sure. I take things as they come. One day I woke up and decided I was going to be a photographer; the next I decided I was going to produce a show; and I've been lucky enough to be successful at both. I get big ideas and I run with them until I crash into D'Arcy. He talks me out of half of them because, seriously, where am I going to find a real pink elephant, and more importantly, where would I keep it? He levels me out. I'm a big thinker and a giant dreamer, and he's more of a logical thinker. I know for a fact that I want to continue photography and work on a more serious business for when I'm through with stripping, or shall I say, when stripping is through with me. Perhaps I can teach or start my own troupe; that would be fun too. There's always a place for you in my troupe, Eric. So long as you keep the pasties polished bright and don't poo in the shoes. A dream I've always had was to own my own gentleman's club. I think that would be a lot of fun. I would run a pretty tight ship and the girls would be treated with a lot of respect. Only real gentlemen would be allowed in. But it's okay, Eric; don't fret. You're a friend. I'd even give you the VIP treatment!

E: I knew I'd get to use my pasties someday!

DARK HORSE
OCTOBER 2011

HORSEPOWER

Well, since most of you have never heard of me, I'll introduce myself. Hi, I'm Kent Dalian, and *House of Night* will be my first-ever foray into comic-book writing. I come to you via the world of screenwriting, which is how I met P. C. Cast—cowriter of the successful line of novels of the same name, alongside her daughter, Kristin. I was hired to write the screenplay for her best-selling *House of Night* series, and the producer put us in touch so I could pick her fun house of a brain. It was the start of a beautiful friendship.

When we finally met face to face, I immediately felt like I'd been shot out of a cannon. (If you've never met P. C., put it on your bucket list. The woman's a human adventure story.) Since that first meeting I've swum with wild stingrays; I met my lovely and insane Lithuanian fiancée; I got three tattoos (from the talented fiancée); I finally got my first Alaskan malamute (my dream dog since I was a kid); I ate some ghost chili peppers (don't do it!); I've spent the last year in Ireland; and now I'm officially writing comics, for Dark Horse, no less! Yeah, it's been a helluva ride and it's still just the beginning. That's life with P. C. Cast.

So, what's this *House of Night* miniseries all about? It's a five-issue series building off the ritual stories from *The Fledgling Handbook*, and it's an exciting intro into the *House of Night* world for newcomers and a very cool new story for you die-hard fans—yes, it's a new story about Zoey, Aphrodite, and the nerd herd; don't worry. But it also tells the stories of five ancient vampyres, including Cleopatra, the Viking priestess Freya, and the Amazon queen Hippolyte.

The present-day events center around Zoey, a newly "Marked" vampyre fledgling, trying to figure out how to effectively lead a student group called the Dark Daughters and using her affinity for the five elements as her guide.

And the art—holy crap! The covers by Jenny Frison are frame and hang on your wall worthy. Joëlle Jones is handling all of the present-day Zoey & Co. stuff, and there's no better artist out there for *House of Night*. It's so exciting to see these characters and this world come to life. I'm giddy. And I don't ever get giddy. I've also seen the art from Karl Kerschl and Josh Covey on the historical/mythological stories, and it blew me away. I promise it'll do the same to you.

Kent Dalian
Ireland

Oh, boy . . . Kent makes me laugh, especially as all the stuff he said that's happened to him since we met is totally true (plus some stuff I'm really glad he didn't share!).

But, oh baby, the stories Kent is getting ready to share with you! I love how he has adapted my world. He has an amazing knack for getting the true spirit of *House of Night*—the characters, the setting—spot on. I continue to be delighted by his work. Add to the mix the incredible artistic talent from the Dark Horse stables, and I am thrilled with everything about these comics! If you're a new reader to *House of Night*: welcome, and thank you for checking us out. If you're an already-fan: I hope y'all heart the comics as much as I do!

XXXOOO
P. C. Cast
Tulsa, OK

DARK HORSE HEROES!

Hero? Or antihero? Former Imperial Guard **Kir Kanos** is still a loyal subject of the fallen Galactic Empire—in fact, he's been holding a grudge against Luke Skywalker since the fledgling Jedi killed Emperor Palpatine years ago. Kanos's tale of vengeance enters its final chapter in this month's *Star Wars: Crimson Empire III—Empire Lost*!

Eisner Award–winning writer and artist **David Lapham** wishes to be labeled a "reluctant hero," as he's worried he may have to step in front of bullets and climb ladders and stuff. "Fear of everything drives my work," the writer of *Kull* and the upcoming *The Strain* says. "Helping others could destroy me." Now, that's scary.

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